

***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

We do hereby set forth the principles of the Christian faith as commonly held among us, believing that no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

Our ideal is a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the hopeful spirit, and the social vision which ever seeks to express, in all walks of life, the mind of Jesus.



Thou, sun, art half as happy as we,
In that the world's contracted thus.
Thine age asks ease, and since thy duties be
To warm the world, that's done in warming us.
Shine here to us, and thou art everywhere;
This bed thy center is, these walls, thy sphere.

~ John Donne



September 23, 2018

*First Reformed Church
8 North Church Street
Schenectady, New York 12305
(518) 377-2201 www.1stReformed.com*

Welcome to First Reformed Church
We are a welcoming and affirming congregation and absolutely everyone is invited to our worship, activities, and service.



If you are a first time visitor, we hope you feel at home here. Please fill out a little white pew card and place it in the offering plate and join us after the service for coffee and refreshments. Stop by a welcome table at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

After Worship

Typically, after worship, people stop for a chat and a cookie in the Dirck Romeyn room before going to a learning opportunity that lasts until noon. Visitors are welcome to join in.

Columbarium Accessible on Sundays

Those wishing to visit the columbarium during construction may do so on Sunday mornings from 11-11:30am. Our sexton, Tom Mahan will be stationed at the church office entrance to provide safe passage to the columbarium.

Communion

Our congregation celebrates the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month. All followers of Christ are invited to share this meal.

Non-Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-630-0911

Parking

You may park in **any** of the lots around the church or the Stockade Inn on Sunday mornings.

Elders in Worship

Past and current leaders we call 'Elders' walk in together at the beginning of worship and sit in the front pew. This is to identify them as servants of the mission of the church and make it easy to see who you might talk to about the life of our congregation.

Restroom

If you are looking for a first floor handicap accessible restroom the Mohawk House is open.

Hearing Assistance



We have a hearing aid loop system that will make it easier to hear. Ask an usher.

Joining the Congregation

To become a member of the congregation, there is a one-time orientation, a meeting with the governing board, and a reception in worship. If you are interested in the next orientation, please fill out a white pew card.

Mohawk House Coffee Area

Open from 9am-3pm on Monday-Friday.

Child Care on Sunday - Kinderwyk

Childcare for children through Pre-k is available from 9:45am until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.

Church School

All children in grades K-8 are welcome to join in our Church School activities by leaving immediately after the Children's Message. Parents can pick up their children at 11:15am in the Walton House (church office entrance.)

Church School on Communion Sundays

On Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of the month) youth in grades 3-8 remain in the service to participate in Communion. Those in grades K-2 are welcome to join church school after children's message.

Children's Worship Bulletins

Special bulletins for children, ages 3-6 and 7-12 are available each Sunday. If the ushers are not handing them out, just ask for one.

Service Online

A live stream of the worship service as well as some of the past services can be found at 1stReformed.com.

Parking Reminder

Our handicap parking lot is designated for contractors Monday-Friday. Please park in our other two available lots. Also, please leave the spaces in front of the church open on Sundays for drop off.

Fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation

September 23, 2018

*The congregation may stand.

creation. We ask your forgiveness. Teach and transform us, we pray, to care for all you have made.

PRELUDE Wayne Hawkins

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Bill Levering

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP Daniel Carlson

INTROIT American Shaker Melody

When I Gaze On Creation Dolores Dufner

*HYMN *The Earth Is the Lord's*

1. The earth is the Lord's, and e - v'ry-thing in it—
2. Can you feel the ach - ing heart of cre - a - tion?
3. On this ho - ly ground, de - fense-less be - fore you,

From sea - bed to sky, and from o - cean to earth,
A pla - net in pe - ril, a world in de - spair,
Your spi - rit, O God, is the air that we breathe,

The beau - ty from here to the far - thest ho - ri - zon,
A ha - bi - tat drained of strength and re - si - lience
Oh, teach us to live your ho - ly vo - ca - tion:

1. A gift to us all from the mo - ment of birth.
Can ne - ver sus - tain all the life in her care.
To care for the ground that is un - der our feet.

Chorus
There is no way back to the gar - den of E - den,
But the vi - sion you pro - mise is a ci - ty and home.

Re - deem us, O Lord, and the earth we be - long to:
Fine D.C. al Fine
Cre - a - tion still groans for a new world to come.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies. Lord of all, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(FRC Creation Care Resolution)

Scripture reveals that God, through Word and Spirit, creates, sustains, loves, and owns the World. We therefore commit ourselves to make the care of creation a central priority, for the blessing of the world, the strengthening of our lives, and the transformation of our communities, to the glory of God.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

The Heavens Are Telling Franz Josef Haydn

Kate Rose, soprano; John Spinelli, tenor

Siddharth Dubey, baritone

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
The wonder of his work displays the firmament:

The day that is coming speaks it the day,
The night that is gone to following night.
In all the lands resounds the word,
Never unperceived, ever understood. ever, ever.

FIRST LESSON

Norma Brown

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Philippians 2:14-18 (pg 197)

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Creator of all, we confess that we have polluted and overpopulated your beloved world, our common home. Through what we have done and what we have left undone, we have increased the distress of

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Psalms 19:1-6 (pg 498)

SERMON

Daniel Carlson

The Glory of the Skies

*HYMN #285

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Canticle of Creation Mark Burrows

Benedicite, omnia opera Domini
Great are the works of the Lord
Bene dicite, omnia opera Domini
Great are His works, Praise the Lord!

Let all the earth praise the Lord
Mountains and hills; Flowers and forests;
All things that grow on the earth.

Rivers and streams praise the Lord;
Birds of the air, flocks of the field,
Whales of the sea;

Sun moon and stars praise the Lord
Heaven and earth, sunlight and shadows
All give their praise to the Lord.
Great are His works, Praise the Lord!

*DOXOLOGY #592

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN #425

Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Twofold Amen Dresden

POSTLUDE

Prayers of the People

Requests for prayer may be noted on a pew card and placed in the offering plate. We pray regularly for those who are ill, those who serve their country, those who hunger, and those who are our enemies. As part of our prayers this morning, we remember with thanksgiving members of our church who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

*Patricia Herman, David Erwin Bain,
Jean Morgan, Janet (Jan) Crandell,
Elizabeth Nicholson*

If you are aware of a departed member, whose name has not been noted near the anniversary of their death, please contact the church office.

Celebratory or Memorial Flowers

Sign up for flowers in the church office where you can choose a date for donating flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event. The cost of the flowers is \$30 for two bouquets. You may send your check payable to Chancel Guild c/o Marlene Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Children's Bulletins

The Beaver Bulletin Bits are available as bulletins for children, youth and their families. These bulletins have scripture, songs and prayers connecting to worship this week, and announcements that help families connect to the people of First Reformed Church. There are coloring pages for people of all ages who want to doodle while listening to the service.

Kinderwyk & Church School Volunteers

Sign up with Dorothy or Liam and reserve your time to nurture our growing youth. If you are interested in Teaching Sunday School Classes, but can't commit to a full 3 month block, let us know as we are working to create an alternating schedule to fit our volunteers availability!

Just A Reminder: Do not walk through the construction zone.

Emergency Contact Info

It has been very helpful to have the emergency contact information for members, especially--but not limited--to those who live alone. If you would like us to keep track of this for you, fill out a white card in worship or call or visit the church office.

Johnson Library

There are several new books on the shelf in the Heritage Room. The first is, "Friends Divided", a dual biography of Adams and Jefferson by Gordon S. Wood that tells the story of their sometimes stormy and eventually very close relationship. The second, "The Road to Character", by David Brooks focuses on the deeper values that should inform our lives. He uses great thinkers and leaders to show the struggle it takes to build character. Finally, "The Gospel of Trees", is a memoir by Apricot Irving that retraces the story of her family, missionaries in the north of Haiti, and the shattered history of colonization.

Volunteers Needed

The Chancel Guild is looking for volunteers to prepare Sunday Flowers for home delivery after Worship and vesting for the upcoming Christmas season. Please call Marlene Risseuw at 518-372-1710 to learn more or sign up. If you would like to help deliver flowers please sign up on the church website 1stReformed.com.

Music Notes

When I Gaze On Creation Delores Dufner, OSB 2016 Copyright GIA Pub. Inc. Music, Beautiful Treasures, American Shaker melody 1849 Onelicense.net. *The Earth is the Lord's*, Words and music Maggi Dawn, copyright 2018 Maggi Dawn.

"New Life" Stewardship

Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.

– *Colossians 3:23-24*

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Martha Winchester	Sarah Howes
Counting Deacons	Christina Jones, Brad Lewis	Andy Chestnut, Richard Rose
Flower Delivery	Lois Stickney, Lauren Cleworth	Sally & Bob Clark, Chris & Norm Kuchar
Greeters	Liam Battjes, Claire and Tess Hughes	Peggy King, James Gonda
Jazz Vespers	Azzaam Hameed, piano	Mike Lamkin, piano
Kinderwyk	Dorothy Linder Mitchell	Dorothy Linder Mitchell, Kristin Lion
Preacher	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Del Pierce, Norma Brown, Peggy King, Thomas Lindsay, Margaret Schadler, Jeanne Shoulder	Joanne Arnold, Barbara Mancuso, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Susan Houpt, Keith Muse, Richard Rose
Reader	Norma Brown	Mary Jewett
Ushers	Art Shultes, Hendrick & Joanne Arnold, Jeanette & Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay	Mike Horan, Hannah Bachorik, Sarah Bachorik, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal

Coming Up

See the newsletter or call the church office for more information

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Sept 23	9am	Chancel Choir	Rehearsal open to all.	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	We meet every Sunday. Any kids ages 8-18 are welcome. No experience needed.	Mezzanine
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Childcare for children through Pre-k, until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.	Friendship Hall
	10:15am	Church School	Children in grades K-5 are invited to go upstairs for church school after the Children's Message.	Schermerhorn & Walton
	11:15am	First Forum	Meet Liam Battjes New Director of Christian Development.	Sanctuary
	1:30pm	Sole Searchers Like to Bike?	Please join us for a 19 mile bicycle excursion on the Erie Canal towpath from Amsterdam to Fultonville, NY. RSVP to James Gonda, jgonda12309@gmail.com	Church Parking Lot
	5pm	Fowler Finger Food Family Fun Night	Bring some finger food to share. Those who attended Camp Fowler will be sharing games and activities that will be fun for the whole family. This is open to all ages.	Dirck Romeyn
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Azzaam Hameed, piano	Sanctuary
Sept 25	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Our study guide <i>God's Promise: I am with you</i> is available in the church office for \$10. Contact Barbara Walton, (518) 894-5021 or waltonbl@aol.com if you have questions.	Mohawk House Pres
Sept 26	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Fully subscribed Bible study and discussion of God's command to speak out.	Mohawk House Pres
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Wednesdays, no experience is needed, call the church office to borrow a ukulele.	Mohawk House Pres
Sept 27	10am	Prayer Shawl Knitting	4th Thursday of every month in the home of Gini McDermott.	21 Carrie Ct, Niskayuna
	10am	Stitch Group	Meets every Thursday. Come finish a project or start a new one.	Mezzanine
	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Rehearsal open to all.	Sanctuary
Sept 29	10am	Youth Apple Picking	The youth will be picking apples at Riverview Orchards and caramelizing them. These will be available for sale on September 30 as we raise funds for our service project.	Church Parking Lot
Sept 30	Last Day to Sign up		Take a Bite of the Big Apple – FRC Sole Searchers will head to Manhattan on December 1, by train. This will be a one-day trip, please RSVP to James Gonda at jgonda12309@gmail.com by today.	

Date	Time	Event	Description	Place
Set 30	11am	Care & Prayer	Trained Stephen Ministers are available to sit with, listen to, and pray for you.	Dykstra Chapel
	11:15am	First Forum	Meet Wayne Hawkins New FRC Musician.	Sanctuary
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Mike Lamkin, piano	Sanctuary
Oct 1	11am	Group V	Questions contact Maria Todd at (518)882-6555.	Dirck Romeyn
Oct 2	7pm	Short Short Writing	Writing group for 1000 words or less.	Mohawk House Lunn
Oct 5		Creation Retreat at Camp Fowler	Worship in the woods, paddle the lake, walk the trails, carve a pumpkin, gaze at the stars, figure your ecological footprint, consume lower carbon cuisine and much more.	Camp Fowler
	12pm	Youth Ed Meeting	Youth Education Meeting	
Oct 7		World Communion Sunday	We collect an offering for One Great Hour of Sharing, who support projects that break the cycles of poverty, hunger, and thirst, as well as providing aid in times of crisis.	Sanctuary
	11:15am	First Forum	Sermon Talkback by Rev. Bill Levering	Sanctuary
	2pm	Blessing of the Animals	Think about what other friend from God's creation you would like to bring to have blessed. All are welcome to bring their pet to be blessed on the church lawn.	Church Lawn
	3pm	What's What @ FRC	This is a relaxed time to learn more about First Reformed and possible membership.	Church Office
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass	Sanctuary
Oct 14	11:15am	First Forum	Working Group on Girls Thank you by Gwyne Delong	Sanctuary
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Tim Olsen, piano	Sanctuary
	6pm	Youth Group	Regular Youth Group – Snacks, games and quality conversation.	Mohawk House Lunn
Oct 20	8am	Fellowship Breakfast	Kate Dudding will share her story, and generate conversation about Muslims in our society. Questions contact Gene Rowland rowland.gene2@gmail.com or Joe Doolittle aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com.	Dirck Romeyn room
	11am	Celebration of Life for Ursula Settle.	All are invited to gather and give thanks for the life of this dear steadfast saint in Christ Jesus. A reception will follow, provided by the family.	37 Van Voast Ln. Scotia
Oct 21	11:15am	First Forum	All Church Committee Fair	Sanctuary
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass	Sanctuary

“If the stars should appear one night in a thousand years, how would men believe and adore; and preserve for many generations the remembrance of the city of God which had been shown! But every night come out these envoys of beauty, and light the universe with their admonishing smile.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson

“There is one spectacle grander than the sea, that is the sky; there is one spectacle grander than the sky, that is the interior of the soul.”
— Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*

“How foolish to believe we are more powerful than the sea or the sky.” — Ruta Sepetys

“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.” — John Lubbock, *The Use Of Life*

“The moon will guide you through the night with her brightness, but she will always dwell in the darkness, in order to be seen.”
— Shannon L. Alder

“We stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost's familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road — the one less traveled by — offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of the earth.”
— Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

My father's generation's crisis was fighting fascism. Ours is fighting climate change. It is much harder because you can't see it, it is not an obvious threat. But the solution is in our hands.
— Nicholas Stern

We are the first generation that can put an end to poverty and we are the last generation that can put an end to climate change. — Ban Ki-moon